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L.A. Man Pleads Guilty to Two Murders

A 55-year-old car salesman pleaded guilty today to murdering two women he once dated, one whose body was dumped in Mexico and the other whose body was never recovered, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Aurangzeb "Simon" Manjra pleaded guilty to the first-degree murder of Esperanza "Espy" Torio, 39, whose dismembered body he dumped in Mexico in August 1996. Manjra, a Los Angeles resident, also pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Maria Theresa Santos, 44, who was last seen alive in October 2004. Her remains have not been recovered.

Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian with the Major Crimes Division said Manjra is facing 25 years to life in prison for his plea when he returns to court on Jan. 29, 2014, for sentencing before Judge George G. Lomeli.

"We are pleased that this plea secures justice and closure for the families of the two victims," Balian said.

Manjra was charged with two counts of murder in 2010 after Glendale Police detectives reopened the Torio murder case. In reopening their investigation into the Glendale resident's murder, they discovered victim Maria Santos, who lived off and on with Manjra in 2004, also had vanished.

Balian said each victim left behind two children.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.